

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the Office Action of February 24, 2005, and offers the following remarks in response thereto.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) – Treyz et al.

Claim 58 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Treyz et al. (hereinafter “Treyz”). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Treyz does not qualify as prior art. Specifically, Treyz was filed June 24, 2002 after Applicant’s filing date. Treyz is a continuation of an application filed January 20, 2000, a few days before Applicant’s filing date. However, the current application is a properly noted divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/896,988, filed July 18, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,052,629. As such, Treyz is not prior art. Since Treyz is not prior art, this anticipation rejection is not proper. Applicant requests withdrawal of the anticipation rejection and claim allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Hollidge & Treyz

Claims 29, 30, 49, and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hollidge in view of Treyz. Applicant respectfully traverses.

As noted above, Treyz is not prior art. Since Treyz is not prior art, its use in an obviousness rejection is improper. Since the rejection is improper, the claims are allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Hollidge, Craig & Treyz

Claims 31-35 and 51-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hollidge in view of Craig, and further in view of Treyz. Applicant respectfully traverses.

As noted above, Treyz is not prior art. Since Treyz is not prior art, its use in an obviousness rejection is improper. Since the rejection is improper, the claims are allowable.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejections in light of the fact that Treyz is not available as prior art. Applicant earnestly solicits claim allowance at the Examiner’s earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
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